

MENG Technicians and Supervisors of Technicians,

1. With most of our Federal Technicians recalled to duty, there are several questions you may have. While there are some answers to your questions concerning the Shutdown/Furlough, pay, leave, and what might still be in store, there are still many unanswered questions. The biggest take away is that we are NOT BACK TO BUSINESS AS USUAL. There are still looming issues of O&M (only available for pay and benefits at this time) and the Debt Ceiling.

We have been in constant contact with NGB Technician Personnel Branch in hopes of providing accurate information to you. Here's what we currently know:

2. Usage of Leave:

- Upon recall to duty (7 October) employees may resume usage of normal leave.
- If a Technician was categorized as "excepted" during the furlough period, he/she was not allowed the usage of leave. These individuals would be considered furloughed and their time and attendance would need to be coded (KE) for any day they did not report to work.
- Upon furlough all leave for the period of 1-5 October was to be cancelled
- Columbus Day Holiday – Normal holiday eligibility rules apply.

3. Technician Pay:

- Time and Attendance: We are still waiting on NGB to provide additional information in regarding time and attendance.
- HR 3223, Federal Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act – According to NGB the House voted to pass and it has now gone on to the Senate. It is anticipated that the Senate will vote in favor to pass and the President will sign. Exact timing is unknown. If HR 3223 is signed by the President, Technicians will receive back pay for furloughed time (1 October – 5 October). It is unknown at this time as to when Technicians would receive back pay. Most Technicians could expect to receive pay for the period of 22 September thru 30 September as scheduled. Most "excepted" Technicians will likely receive pay for 1-5 October, if time and attendance actions were properly processed.
- Technicians coded as "Excepted" will need to have their time and attendance coded appropriately for regular duty hours worked and any compensatory time earned for the period of 1-5 October.
- ***It is unknown if Technicians will be paid on time, best guess is they will receive "some" pay on time.

4. Hiring:

- The Maine National Guard will not be appointing new Technicians until a CRA/Budget is in place. Other technician personnel actions should continue.

5. Other Items:

The government shutdown was the result of a lapse in appropriations and resulted in Technician furloughs. Those furloughed were categorized as NON-EXCEPTED, while others who remained on the job were categorized as EXCEPTED and were in direct support of excepted activities as outlined by NGB. The furlough was/is not about essential/non-essential employees.

While most Technicians have returned to work, our department continues to have a few federal technicians furloughed that do not support excepted activities. There are also a significant number of state employees furloughed as their positions are federally funded through cooperative agreements.

Though most of us have returned to work by virtue of the "Pay Our Military Act" this does not mean that we may not be subject to further furlough. There is no "operating" budget at this time. Supplies may not be purchased and therefore a lack of work could occur. Such a situation of no work could result in further furloughs. We are also facing the "debt ceiling" issue on 17 October.....more to come.

Don't forget, the ink is not dry....more to follow.